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Ghali urges halt to African arms flow

ATLANTA (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali Saturday called for a halt to the flow of arms to Africa, blaming it for the civil strife in starving Somalia. "The outside world must act, urgently, to curtail the flow of arms to Africa," he told a conference on global development at ex-President Jimmy Carter's policy centre here. "Steps towards development will go nowhere in the long run so long as the continent is filled with weapons — arms that at any time can be used to tear down what has just been built up." The world body's chief officer made no direct reference to the imminent U.S.-led troop deployment in Somalia (see story below). The Egyptian-born diplomat noted that "there is a greater availability of arms than of food in Somalia. These arms were not manufactured in Somalia — they have no factories for arms. These arms were even bought by Somalia — they were given by the outside world, to serve outside interests."

New U.N. team starts inspection in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Two teams of United Nations weapons inspectors arrived in Baghdad Saturday and the chemical experts carried out their first inspection. "We stopped on our way in from the airport to inspect a site to make the best possible use of the time," said Swedish chemical expert Johan Santesson. He declined to give details. He told reporters on arrival at his Baghdad hotel the team would inspect a number of sites and raise several questions in about what he called Iraq's "so-called full, final and complete declaration" of its biological and chemical weapons. "There are a number of points in the declaration which are unclear and where we need to seek clarifications," he said. Some of the U.N. visits, made under Gulf war ceasefire terms, have been marked by confrontation. A three-week standoff outside the Agriculture Ministry in July raised the possibility of a U.S. air strike to force the Iraqis to let inspectors in. U.N. officials say the situation is now greatly improved. "I hope that the atmosphere will be as pleasant as the weather," Mr. Santesson said.

France plans missile with multiple warhead

PARIS (R) — The newspaper Le Monde reported Saturday that France would develop a submarine-launched missile with multiple nuclear warheads and a range of more than 3,000 kilometres. The influential daily said the missile project, called M. 5-S.S., would cost 38.5 billion francs (\$7.26 billion) and be developed by the state-owned firm Matra, which Le Monde said would produce the missile. France's nuclear force currently includes submarines, land-based missiles and aircraft. The new missile will have a dozen warheads, Le Monde wrote.

Iran is developing atom bomb

TEHRAN (AP) — German intelligence officials are convinced that Iran is developing nuclear weapons, a German newspaper reported Saturday. Welt am Sonntag, in an article of a report appearing Sunday, said Iran was aggressively working on developing its nuclear warheads. "The leave no doubt that Iran is to produce nuclear weapons," the newspaper quoted an intelligence report saying. It said Iran was acquiring equipment and building structures designed for development of nuclear weapons. China and the United States are helping Iran's nuclear programme, as well as Europe, Welt am Sonntag said. Most of the nuclear research is being done in the Eastern province, with the help of China, the report said.

Heilmann deplores Islam in interview

AVIV (R) — Former Australian President Kurt Waldheim, in an interview with a Jewish newspaper, deplored Islam as a "new low in the history of man." He said he deeply regretted all those who, in his view, had helped Islam to become a "new low in the history of man." He said he deeply regretted all those who, in his view, had helped Islam to become a "new low in the history of man."

Al in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Turkish President Turgut Ozal arrived in Cairo today for a three-day official visit. He will be followed by a private tour of the pyramids and the Sphinx. Ozal is the first Turkish leader to visit Egypt since 1974. He is expected to meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and other officials. Ozal's visit is part of a series of diplomatic moves by Turkey to improve its relations with the Arab world.

Queen to remarry

EDINBURGH (R) — Queen Elizabeth II's daughter Princess Anne, 37, is expected to remarry in the near future. The princess, who has been married to Captain Mark Phillips since 1973, is reportedly considering a divorce. Her current husband is said to be "unhappy" and "unable to perform his marital duties." The divorce proceedings are expected to be completed by the end of the year. The princess is expected to remarry a man of her own choice.

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On the peace negotiations, he noted that President-elect Bill Clinton had stated that he was concerned with the continuation of the peace process and he might appoint a special envoy to follow up on this matter. In the next coordination meeting among the Arab parties, to be held in Cairo, the foreign ministers will discuss the outcome of the eighth round of negotiations. Dr. Abu Jaber was quoted by Sawt Al Arab radio of Cairo as saying that Jordan was fully committed to a just and comprehensive settlement to the Middle East question.

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among the Arab participants and Egypt. Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez told Reuters the meeting decided on participation. Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said: "There is one unified Arab decision and we will abide by it." A PLO official in Tunis said the result of the Beirut meeting would be confirmed on Sunday. "Our orientation is positive on the basis this is a final round before Clinton's administration," PLO Executive Committee Member Yasser Abed-Rabbo told Reuters at Beirut airport Saturday.

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His Majesty King Hussein Saturday receives Libyan Foreign Minister Jum'a Farrani, who conveyed to him a message from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi (Petra photo)

Libya supports King's call for a new Arab order and unity

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Saturday Libyan Foreign Minister Jum'a Farrani, who conveyed to him a message from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, commending His Majesty's stands on pan-Arab issues. Colonel Qadhafi stressed in his message the need to enhance Arab coordination "so as to achieve Arab aspirations and face challenges facing future Arab generations."

Afghan allies fight duels

KABUL (R) — Two Mujahadeen guerrilla groups allied in Afghanistan's interim coalition government fought each other with artillery and small arms in western Kabul Saturday, eyewitnesses said. There was no immediate information about casualties or the cause of the fighting between the Shoor-e-Nazar followers of Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood and Hezb-e-Wahdat group of Shi'ite Muslims. But Mujahadeen sources in Peshawar, in neighbouring Pakistan, said the clashes erupted after Hezb-e-Wahdat fighters killed a member of Shoor-e-Nazar.

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ports King Hussein's call for the establishment of new Arab order, unified Arab states or one Arab Nation. In an address delivered last month at a graduation ceremony at the Royal Staff and Command College, King Hussein called on Arab "revolutionaries" to rise up against the Arab status quo and join Jordan in working towards a new Arab order which champions human rights, democracy and Arab renaissance. The Libyan leader lauded the King's experience and wisdom in leading his people, saying these were necessary elements for bringing such an initiative to a successful end.

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Israelis kill Gaza boy in school, wound 30

KHAN YOUNIS, Occupied Gaza Strip (R) — Israeli forces shot dead a Palestinian schoolboy in his classroom Saturday and wounded 30 other Arabs in a clash with hundreds of residents in the occupied Gaza Strip. Palestinian sources said the army confirmed one dead and 13 wounded in the incident in Khan Younis, but a spokesman said a detailed report was not available.

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Yeltsin survives congress votes

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But three other amendments proposed by Mr. Yeltsin and giving additional authority to parliament were all passed. Mr. Yeltsin was left with his powers to form a cabinet intact. Losing them, if the amendment had gone through, could have jeopardised the radical economic reforms of acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar's government.

Hardline opponents in the congress had pushed for the changes in a bid to slow down the reforms, which have cut production and sent inflation soaring. But conservative Parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, putting a brave face on the hair's breadth loss for right-wingers, told the government to heed the warning and abandon plans to bypass Russia's two-tiered parliament altogether.

"This is a victory for the congress and I want to tell our executive authorities...draw your own conclusions from these voting results," Mr. Khasbulatov said in a speech to the congress. Saturday's vote was the peak of a week-long battle between reformers and conservatives at the congress, the only body empowered to change the constitution. It meets twice a year.

Economics Minister Andrei Nekhayev had said the government would probably resign if all the amendments were approved. Mr. Yeltsin had hinted he might either call a referendum on abolishing the rebellious congress, elected during the Soviet era and strongly opposed to Mr. Gaidar's reforms, or introduce direct presidential rule.

"If you continue to strive for absolute rule, this pyrrhic victory will be the last one and it will lead to the destruction of our country. Let us proceed together on decisions, including decisions on personnel," Mr. Khasbulatov added. "Then the deputies will be defenders of executive power."

The official results came as a shock to many deputies, who were earlier quoted by several Russian news agencies as saying all seven constitutional amendments had been rejected by clear margins of up to 100 votes. The vote on the fifth day of the congress was the latest effort by the hardline parliament to deprive Mr. Yeltsin of his ability to control the course of economic and political reform.

Mr. Yeltsin told parliament Friday the proposed amendments would tie the hands of the government, endanger the reforms and deprive the country of stable power structures.

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School officials said the dead Palestinian schoolboy, 15, and the wounded schoolboy, 15, were both hit inside their classroom at the school by bullets fired from outside. "Students... were shouting at the army from the windows. The soldiers shot at the school. Bullets penetrated the windows and hit the two boys," said Hassan, 45, a teacher at the school.

Since the outbreak of the Palestinian revolt against Israeli occupation on Dec. 9, 1987, Israelis have killed 964 Palestinians and Palestinians have killed 103 Israelis. Clashes have increased in the Strip since Nov. 27, when troops shot dead a Palestinian who was throwing stones at them in Gaza City. Troops have killed four Palestinians and wounded more than 70 in the Strip in the last eight days.

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مَكَّنَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Home News

Bakers warned against low quality bread

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Supply Mohammad Saqqaf Saturday visited the northern city of Irbid where he warned local bakers against violating the regulations concerning prices or quality of bread. "The Ministry Supply is keen on providing bakers with good quality bread and on facilitating the availability of flour for bakeries," he said. "The Ministry will not be lenient with those who violate the regulations concerning bread quality in bakeries," said Mr. Saqqaf.

The minister first met with Governor Fayez Abbadi to review the general supply situation in the Irbid governorate and regional problems. He later opened a series of centres for the distribution of wheat flour in Ajloun, Jerash and Deir Al Zor, all in the Irbid governorate. In a statement, he said that the ministry was keen to make available sufficient supplies in all regions especially under the difficult weather conditions.



Queen Saturday chairs meeting with officials from the Arab Institute for Banking Studies in Amman (Petra photo)

Queen visits banking institute

AMMAN (J.T.) — Queen Noor visited Saturday morning the Arab Institute for Banking Studies in Amman, where she was briefed on the activities and programmes of the institute.

The Queen was received by the institute's Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Mohammad Sa'eed Al-Nabulsi and other board members. General Manager Dr. Mustafa Hudaib briefed the Queen on the Institute's programmes and the objectives.

The Queen inspected various facilities at the institute, which was established in 1989 upon the initiative of the Arab Banking Union. The institute also initiated an MBA scholarship programme for candidates to be nominated by the Noor Al-Husseini Foundation (NHF). In addition, free-of-charge training courses in banking will be offered to NHF nominees.

The Institute for Banking Studies offers a number of specialized academic programmes which are accredited by the Ministry of Higher Education. Its academic programmes which combine practical and technical skills consist of a masters programme as well as a high diploma degree in banking and financial studies and in Islamic banking.

Dr. Nabulsi told the Queen that the institute, the first of its kind in the Arab world, does not conflict with those individual institutes found in Arab countries. He said that the institute which offers training in financial, monetary and banking matters can be described as complementary to those Arab institutes.

Dr. Nabulsi noted that since its establishment the institute has run 38 training programmes for the benefit of 2,466 candidates from Arab countries including Jordan.

Amman awaits home delivery post service

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanians will no longer waste their time and money to reach their destinations in Amman. The Greater Amman Municipality will embark on a project to name streets as of Saturday. Streets will be named and houses numbered as a first step towards post home delivery.

"This plan of action of naming streets and suburbs in Amman has already been put into effect in ten different areas of Amman," Mohammad Bashir, Greater Amman Municipality Mayor said at a press conference Saturday. "By the end of the year, naming and numbering will be realised in the remaining four areas."

All details concerning naming streets and different areas in Amman will be fully explained in a guide book issued by the municipality and sold at a low cost, while plans of each area will be distributed to residents free. In the near future, an English edition of the guide book will also be issued, Mr. Bashir said.

"We have to raise awareness among the public of the need to use the new names given to streets instead of the old ones," insisted Mr. Bashir, referring to the previous plan adopted in 1965 for the organisation and numbering of streets which had failed. "The process would not be an easy thing at the beginning but it is for the benefit of the country."

Names of the streets will be taken from Arab heritage and culture as well as prominent personalities in Jordan. They will include those of the Hashemite Kings, royal family members, famous Arab, Islamic leaders and battles, and leaders of the Great Arab Revolt.

When the project is finalised, the current Post Office Box system will no longer operate; letters will be delivered at home by postmen, according to Mr. Bashir.

"Coordination between different ministries and departments and the municipality will be put into effect in the coming few weeks," Mr. Al Bashir said. "Postal services will reach all families at their respective homes provided that each house supply a box of its own."



The streets with no name: Establishing a postal service in Amman is likely to be a major task

Arab education discussed in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from Jordan and eight other Arab states gathered at the National Educational Research and Development Centre in Amman today for a five day meeting to discuss Arab education.

The meeting is part of a series of educational innovation projects in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

According to UNESCO officials, the participants will review the state of Arab education, employment of educational staff and statistics in educational research programmes, analysing the state of Arab education and ways of aiding decision makers in their task.

Addressing the opening session, Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Thaqan Hindawi noted that decision makers in the improvement of education should be based on data and statistics and accurate information. He said Jordan calls for the creation of an Arab national information network to help educational planning and research that would help them confront common challenges.

Mr. Hindawi said Jordan was keen on pursuing close cooperation with UNESCO's regional office in matters related to educational activities. UNESCO's representative in Jordan Dr. Salah Yaqoub told the audience that the UNESCO had endorsed plans for supporting individual Arab countries to ensure that their needs of educational services are met. According to the national centre's director Kamal Duwani, developing nations including Jordan are unable on their own to find appropriate solutions for their educational problems and are unable to cope with socio-economic development needs.

He referred to the ongoing educational overhauling process in Jordan as one aspect of the country's endeavours to meet the future needs.

As well as Jordan, the meetings are attended by delegates from Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Tunisia, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain in addition to UNESCO experts and educationists.

Arabiyyat meets premier and press delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker visited Saturday Parliament where he met with Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyyat to congratulate him on his re-election.

Sharif Zeid and Dr. Arabiyyat discussed several issues of concern to the executive and legislative authorities, particularly in the parliament's current ordinary session.

In another meeting with a delegation representing the Jordan Press Association (JPA), Dr. Arabiyyat said that he has decided to extend the office hours of the executive bureau of the House to enable it to discuss and follow up issues of concern to citizens.

Dr. Arabiyyat stressed to the delegation, the important role the press plays in illuminating problems facing citizens and publishing various points of views. He affirmed that all citizens should contribute to safeguarding the democratic era; "through which our society moves from the stage of individual domination to the institutional era."

"All citizens are partners in building and developing the homeland and safeguarding it and its good march which is led by His Majesty King Hussein," he said.

He expressed his readiness to hold joint meetings between the JPA council and Lower House members to discuss issues of concern to the Jordanian press and journalists with the aim of creating interaction between the legislative authority and the press.

The House speaker demonstrated understanding of the various issues related to practising journalism in Jordan as a profession, reorganising it and reviewing legislations governing it to make it compatible with the democratic atmosphere prevailing in Jordan.

JPA President Sulaiman Al Qudah who headed the delegation underlined the important role of the JPA, and described it as a national institution carrying out its national and pan-Arab duty in the best possible manner.

Mr. Qudah outlined the responsibilities of the press at the current stage and in the future and voiced Jordanian journalists' determination to preserve the freedom of expression and respect for human rights.

1993 financial pledges to UNRWA announced

AMMAN (J.T.) — Pledges of financial contributions to support the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for 1993 were announced at the annual pledging conference for UNRWA in New York last week. UNRWA has total budget requirements of some \$297 million for its programmes in 1993, as well as needing some \$14 million to continue emergency operations in Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied territory at their present level.

Thirty-four countries plus the European Community and the Holy See were represented at the conference. Among the largest pledges announced were from Norway, for some \$10.366 million; Germany, for the equivalent of \$8.875 million, and the Netherlands, for nearly \$7 million.

Switzerland announced a pledge combining cash and food aid worth a total of some \$6.8 million. France's pledge of more than 17 million francs, or some \$3.167 million, represents an increase of 41 per cent over its pledged contribution to UNRWA for last year. Denmark pledged the equivalent of some \$2.75 million as well as pledging to continue underwriting the running costs of UNRWA's training centres at Ramallah in the West Bank.

The two biggest pledges from Arab donors were from Kuwait (\$1.75 million) and Saudi Arabia (\$1.2 million).

Pledges announced by seven of the 12 members of the European Community were in addition to their contributions through the EC as a whole. The individual and combined contributions of the 12 constitute the largest source of voluntary funding for UNRWA, with total contributions in 1992 worth some \$105 million. The EC itself, however, was not able to announce a pledge for 1993 on Wednesday, as a new convention between UNRWA and the Community is currently being negotiated for the period 1993-95. The delegate of the EC Commission told the conference that the Community's strong support for UNRWA, including food aid and other emergency assistance, would continue in 1993.

A number of the traditionally largest donors to UNRWA's budget, including the United States, Sweden, Japan and the United Kingdom, were not able to announce pledges of Wednesday's conference, as their governments or parliaments had not completed the necessary budgetary procedures. Another major donor, Italy, was not present at the conference.

The pledging conference was opened by the President of the United Nations General Assembly Stoyan Ganev, who is Bulgaria's Foreign Minister. In his statement, he said the General Assembly's renewal this year of UNRWA's mandate for another three years "will remind the refugees, as well as the rest of us in the international community, that our obligation to them has not been forgotten amidst all the political changes sweeping across the world."

Mr. Ganev said the need for broad and deep international financial support for UNRWA was greater than ever.

In their statements to the conference, a number of delegates echoed UNRWA Commissioner-General Iler Turkmen's repeated appeals for greater financial contributions to the Agency, particularly from the wealthier governments in the Middle East region.

Speaking at the end of the conference, Commissioner-General Turkmen thanked those governments which had announced pledges and reiterated his view that "efforts on behalf of the Palestine refugees should be more balanced and better shared" by a broadening of the base of contributors to UNRWA.

However, the Commissioner-General said that UNRWA could face an overall cash shortfall of some \$20 million in resources for its ongoing programmes in 1993 if there is no improvement in prospects for voluntary contributions to the Agency. He warned that UNRWA could be forced to introduce cuts in its budget, leading to a reduction in services, unless we can persuade existing and potential donors to be more generous. "These budget cuts, he said, would send the wrong signal," in that "the Palestinian community should not be given the impression that it is being neglected."

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Jing sends cable to Finland

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent Saturday a cable to Finnish President Mauno Koivisto congratulating him on his country's independence day anniversary. King Hussein wished Mr. Koivisto good health and happiness and the Finnish people further progress and prosperity.

Kabariti visits Karak labour office

ARAK (Petra) — Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti visited Saturday Karak Governorate where he inspected the employment office. Mr. Kabariti was briefed on the work of the office in controlling the labour market in the governorate and providing job opportunities for unemployed Jordanians. The minister also met with the chairman and members of the new municipal council in Karak city and was briefed on the municipal council's work plans. He also inspected projects carried out by the juristic investments department of the social security corporation in Karak.

Joint Chief of Staff thanks Madab Islamic committee

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb sent Saturday a letter to the Islamic Committee for popular work in Madab city, thanking its members for their JD 2000 contribution to the People's Army. Marshal Abu Taleb commended the committee members for the committee's members of their initiative and true national feelings.

Zarga celebrates international volunteers day

ARQA (Petra) — Omar Ben Al Khattab Charitable Society in Zarga celebrated Saturday's international volunteers day. The celebration, which was attended by Zarga Governor Tal'at Al Jawasheh, included speeches underlining the importance of voluntary work in serving the local society. Several personalities were honoured at the celebration in recognition of their role in voluntary work.

Traffic accident figures for November released

AMMAN (Petra) — Nine people were killed and 156 others injured in 350 car accident which took place in the last week of November, the Traffic Department announced Saturday. The department said the number of accidents during this week had risen by 36, deaths by six and injuries by 24 compared to the previous week.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Turki Abdul Amir at the Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings and silkscreen by three artists from Gaza: Fayez Al Hassani, Kamel Al Mughanani and Laiba Shawwa at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ghassan Abu Laban at Phoenix Art Gallery.
- ★ Sculpture exhibition by artist Ahmad Saed Mohabakati at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artist Shaker Hassan Al Saeed at the Jordan Gallery of Fine Arts.

BAZAAR

- ★ The third Al Amal bazaar at the International Jerusalem Hotel, open from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m.

Airline operators discuss false travel documents

A historic meeting of the Airline Operators Committee (AOC) of Cyprus was held in Amman Thursday.

The AOC, which comprises of station managers of airlines operating into Larnaca, Cyprus, held its meeting in the Regency Palace Hotel.

Problems, together with recommendations from the AOC were brought to the attention of the airport authorities.

One of the items discussed during the meeting was the serious problems that airlines face with passengers who travel with false travel documents. As it is the airlines that have to pay the heavy fines imposed by certain countries which do not accept those passengers, the AOCs of both Cyprus and Jordan discussed in detail ways of dealing with this very serious problem. Both AOCs also agreed to the cooperation between them so as to further effectively deal with the problem.

AL WALIMA FOOD SUPPLIES

ANNOUNCES

The arrival of USA whole turkeys & ducklings directly from Arkansas Hudson Foods from USA & are being served in the Amman Marriott Hotel & the Regency Palace Hotel & are available for sale in the following supermarkets.

1. Sweet Supermarket
2. Jordan Supermarket
3. Grand Supermarket
4. Al Waddan Supermarket
5. Babel Supermarket

For more information, contact tel. 826298
Al Walima Food Supplies

Row continues over orthodox land sold to Israelis

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Members of the Orthodox community in Jordan and the occupied territories will hold their fifth general conference in Amman Tuesday to discuss matters related to means of protecting Orthodox real estate and holy shrines in the occupied lands.

At least 150 prominent community members from various towns and villages in Palestine and Jordan also will attend the meeting plan to examine ways of preventing any one from leasing or illegally handling Arab Orthodox real estates and also ways to enable the Arab Orthodox community to determine their own affairs by themselves, socially, culturally and religiously, said Dr. Raouf Abu Jaber, Chairman of the Orthodox Arab Society in Jordan.

Dr. Abu Jaber told the Jordan Times that the conference which will be held under the slogan towards a Comprehensive Orthodox Renaissance "is being organised by a preparatory committee comprising eight prominent personalities."

A preparatory meeting attended by 196 delegates was held in Jerusalem last October in order to prepare an agenda for the meeting.

Last August, delegates from the Arab Orthodox committee in Palestine and Jordan issued a statement accusing the Greek Orthodox church in Arab Jerusalem of leasing Arab Orthodox real estate to the Israelis.

Dr. Abu Jaber provided the Jordan Times with a document of a lease of church estate concluded between the Greek church and Israel.

The lease document pinpoints the exact plots of land and buildings where the Israeli lease holders can erect buildings or other facilities.

The size of the Orthodox community in Jordan and Palestine is estimated at 200,000. Their religious affairs and church estate are handled by what is called the Holy Sepulchre Brotherhood which has 94 members all of whom are Greek except for two Arab citizens, Dr. Abu Jaber noted.

Dr. Abu Jaber said that the Arab Orthodox community is now seeking a speedy amendment to the 1958 Jordanian law on the Greek Orthodox church in a bid to protect Arab rights and interests.

Greek Arab delegates met with Parliament members in Amman in August to present their case and they have received support from the deputies. According to Dr. Abu Jaber the fourth Orthodox conference was held in Jerusalem in March of 1996.

One of the deputies, Fakhri Kassar, said after the meeting that the actions of the Greek Patriarch were harming Islamic as well as Christian communities in

the occupied lands. "The size of the Orthodox community in Jordan and Palestine is estimated at 200,000. Their religious affairs and church estate are handled by what is called the Holy Sepulchre Brotherhood which has 94 members all of whom are Greek except for two Arab citizens, Dr. Abu Jaber noted."

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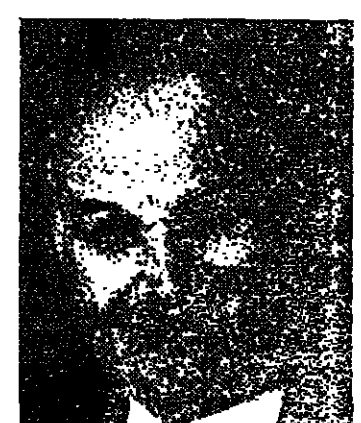
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Dr. Raouf Abu Jaber
terests in Palestine and causing grave danger to the Palestinian cause.

He said that any tampering with the Arab lands and rights whether Christian or Islamic in Palestine would adversely affect the Arab cause in Palestine and encourage the Israelis to pursue their settlement policies.

وزارة الاشغال العامة والاسكان
دائرة العطاءات الحكومية

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE

Ministry of Public Works & Housing Government Tenders Directorate General Tenders Announcement. Invitation to Tenders No. (212,213/92)

Local contractors classified in field of buildings classification first or second and international contractors in the same field and classification who are interested in participating in this tender are requested to contact the Government Tender Directorate at Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Amman, Jordan to receive tender documents starting from 5/12/1992 and in accordance with the following terms:

Tender No.	Description	Last date for purchase of Tender Documents	Last date for submit of Tender
(212/92)	1. Construction of Burma Seco. boys school area/(3595) m ² , Jarash. 2. Construction of Al Kiteh Seco. girls school area/(3227) m ² , Jarash.	29/12/1992	5/1/1993 Tuesday
(213/92)	1. Construction of Al Deir Al Sharki Seco. girls school area/(3227) m ² , Jarash. 2. Construction of Daher Al Sero Elem. girls school area/(2981) m ² , Jarash.	2/1/1993	9/1/1993 Saturday

a. The project partially financed by the sector loan.
b. Work load will be considered in awarding.
c. Tender price JD 200 for each tender set (non-refundable).
d. Offers shall be submitted to the Government Directorate before 13:30 local time on the mentioned date.

Chairman, Central Tender Committee
Government Tenders Directorate
Eng. Basheer Al Jaghbeer

Jordan Times

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Sunday's Economic Pulse

A prudent budget for 1993

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Traditionally, the central government budget used to grow faster than the national economy. In 1990 and 1991, for instance, public expenditure (the budget) reached 46.9 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), which is a very high percentage, and an indication of an inflated role of government in the economic life of the country.

Thanks to the Economic Adjustment Programme, the ratio of the budget to GDP declined to 40.9 per cent in 1992. A further decline to 39.2 per cent is planned for 1993, an indication of a new healthy development in the right direction. The 1993 budget increased in absolute figures, but at a rate lower than the rate of economic growth.

This is of course the best and safest way to correct the distortion. Any attempt to reduce public expenditure would be extremely difficult in practical terms, and very costly in social and political terms. This course of action is possible only in an environment of high economic growth, which is the case in Jordan since mid-1991, i.e., in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

To understand and evaluate the trends underlying the draft budget of 1993, it would not be productive to compare its figures with the corresponding figures of the 1992 budget, which has no more value except in judging the ability of the budget managers in

making accurate predictions. It is more meaningful to make the comparison with the actual figures of the 1992 as reestimated now.

To prove the above point, we draw the attention to the fact that domestic revenue projected for 1993 is 27.5 per cent above the corresponding figure for domestic revenue in the 1992 budget. This suggests that domestic revenue may have been overstated in the 1993 budget to a large degree. However, the picture becomes more convincing and credible when we find out that the 1993 budget expected growth in domestic revenue of no more than 4.2 per cent above the level actually achieved in 1992. Which is way below the estimated growth rate of 15 per cent in current prices of the gross domestic product.

On the other hand, the recurring expenditure projected in the 1993 budget was above the actual reestimated expenditure of 1992 by only JD 55.7 million, or 5.9 per cent.

Capital expenditure allowed for 1993 is only 3.2 per cent higher than the allotted amount in the 1992 budget, but it is 25 per cent above the capital expenditure actually incurred in 1992. There is, of course, no reason to believe that such a big amount will be actually spent in 1993.

In general, the total budget for the 1993 reflects a growth in current prices, and almost zero growth in real terms.

Taking into account that the gross domestic product in 1992 grew at 11.9 per cent in real terms, we can realise that Jordanian government had abandoned the policy of cash growth of its budget. It is giving the private sector an important role to play. Privatisation starts with a smaller budget liberated economy. The 1993 budget was a step forward in the right direction. The high growth of revenue is not being met by a similar increase in expenditure. It is partially used to reduce the deficit.

The deficit in the 1993 draft budget, before foreign grants projected to be JD 197.9 million. It may rise to JD 342.9 million if we add off-budget payments of interest related to the Arms Fund. The above economic deficit will be covered by 31 million of foreign grants, and JD 192.9 million of net bond. Most likely, borrowing will be less, due to the expected savings in the capital expenditure budget. All in all, the budget will show a deficit of 5.5 per cent of GDP, which will turn out to be a 3.7 per cent, which is in line with the targets set by the adjustment programme.

Reaffirmation of trust

THE EIGHTH round of bilateral peace talks between Israel and the Arabs begins in Washington Monday with two positive notes: The amendment to an Israeli law banning contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the success of the foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt during their Beirut meeting Friday in persuading the Palestinian side to continue the negotiations.

The lifting of the archaic and self-defeating Israeli legislation prohibiting talks with members of the PLO could be a prelude to further erosion of the Jewish state's rejection of the PLO as a partner in the peace process. Hopefully, the full integration of the sole recognised representative of the Palestinians into the peace talks could be the next step. This would remove one of the big remaining obstacles in efforts to resolve once and for all the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its dimensions. This development would also encourage the Palestinian side to have more faith in the peace process.

The Arab foreign ministers' decision to apply some "pressure" on the Palestinians to attend the next round of bilateral talks is a clear signal to Palestinian rejectionists that the concerned Arab capitals feel strongly enough about Palestinian continuation in the peace negotiations to insist on it. The divided Palestinian house on the viability of the peace negotiations with Israel has effectively hampered the Palestinian determination to explore the avenue of peace in order to settle their case. They must persevere and probe Israeli intentions to establish a *modus vivendi* with them till the bitter end. The Arab countries' clear position on the need to take part in the continuing rounds of the bilateral peace talks has effectively pulled the rug out from under the feet of those factions that would rather forsake the peace initiative than give it a chance to blossom and bear fruit.

Whether the eighth round of talks will be eventful or not, in view of the wait-and-see perspective to which practically all the parties seem to subscribe pending the changing of the guard at the White House on January 20th, both sides of the fence are still committed to the search for a just and permanent resolution of the Palestinian question and the other Arab-Israeli conflicts. This proves beyond any shadow of doubt that the faith and trust in the US-brokered peace initiative is still strong and vibrant.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SAWT AL SHAAB daily said Saturday that the Arab foreign ministers' meeting held in Beirut was of paramount importance coming on the eve of the eighth round of Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington. Dr. Abu Jaber and other heads of delegations have all stated that Arab coordination efforts were a reply to Yitzhak Rabin's manoeuvres and repeated attempts to create a rift in Arab ranks and sign separate deals with Arab parties, noted the daily. A united Arab front is not only a necessary step for the Arabs to ensure their rights but it is also a means of exposing the true stand of the Israeli government before the world public opinion, added the paper. It said that the first reaction to Israel's procrastination came from its ally, the United States, which blamed Israel for the slow progress in the talks aimed at a peaceful settlement due mainly to Rabin's tactics. The paper underlined Jordan's continued role to cement a united Arab stand vis-a-vis Israel's manoeuvres, noting that King Hussein has repeatedly stressed that Jordan can never go it alone with Israel and that Arab coordination was of utmost importance for all parties. At the same time, said the daily, Jordan was instrumental in exposing Israel's evil intentions which aimed at keeping Europe away from the peace process. The paper said that King Hussein has been urging France and the European countries to assume a meaningful role in this process and help remove all obstacles placed by Israel in the path of peace. The paper cast gloom on the outcome of the coming session noting that as it takes place at a transitional moment at the White House, nothing serious can be expected to come from the upcoming meetings.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticised the Islamic foreign ministers who held a meeting last week in Saudi Arabia, noting that the outcome of their deliberations came to naught. This meeting proved that Saudi Arabia has the power to gather delegates from more than 40 Islamic nations and then allow them to leave through the back doors without achieving anything, said Tareq Masarweh. The conference has ended in failure since the Muslim people in the Bosnia Herzegovina have not received any help from the Muslim nations, while the Serbian attacks continue unabated, said the writer. The conference also failed since the question of Somalia which was reviewed by the ministers remained unsolved, with thousands dying of starvation daily. The writer said that while the Arabs failed to send any food supplies to Somalia, the United States chose to send troops to the African nation without being asked to do so by the Muslim countries. He also noted that the United States has so far refrained from sending troops to former Yugoslavia to end the Serbian aggression although the Muslim countries have been demanding that force should be used to stop the Serbs. At the same time the writer noted, that the United States continues its efforts to dismember Iraq, starve its people and prevent Islamic nations from extending help to the Iraqi population. The writer called on the Islamic countries to free themselves from tutelage and subjugation to others and take meaningful decisions that can be of benefit to their nations.

Building peace needs a solid foundation

By Abdul Jawad Saleh

THE search for a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict is likely to be a long and weary one, and unless the proper criteria are established right now, it will also be futile. Unless the foundations are solid, the peace will not stand.

Given the unjust and concessionary opening terms of reference upon which the peace process was launched a year ago, there is an even greater necessity to ensure that any agreement reached between Israel and the various Arab parties facilitates, and does not foreclose, the attainment of each party's legitimate rights.

Arab states have castigated Israeli attention to the principles of the negotiations as "foot-dragging" and as evidence of Israel's unwillingness to meaningfully engage in the process. But what is becoming more obvious is that such attention to basic definitions is vital, because the final settlement will be determined by agenda agreements and procedural modalities. While Israel has indeed been trying to exasperate the Arab parties, just as they did during the negotiations of 1949 when they occupied Um Rashrash (Eilat), they have also been trying to establish the groundwork to ensure that their terms of peace, which exclude the "land for peace" formula, ultimately predominate.

For years Israel has fought over terminology, procedural modalities and the composition of the Palestinian delegation, as part of its ulterior motive to deny the connection of the Palestinian people to their land and specifically to Jerusalem, and thus to reject their right to self-determination. Concessions granted to Israel through "terminology" facilitate Israel's attempts to denigrate the Palestinian people into an ethnic minority, whose rights are limited to the running of their daily affairs but not their land, economy or resources. Thus the proposed Palestinian administrative council will be restricted to implementing military orders issued by an Israeli military government which will remain the source of authority. This will constitute de facto annexation and the establishment of greater Israel. In addition, acceptance of the terms "terrorism" and "terrorists," which have no common understanding, and in light of Israel's usage of such terms to describe, for example, the infitah, facilitates Israel's campaign to denigrate legitimate Palestinian activists.

Given the historical antecedents of the conflict, it must be established that the territories occupied in 1967 are both "Palestinian" and "under occupation," and thus necessitate an Israeli withdrawal. By defining the West Bank and Gaza as "territories presently under Israeli military government control," without an understanding that the territories are under occupation, and that 242 explicitly requires withdrawal, at a certain stage, a peaceful settlement becomes impossible. As Haider Abdul Shafi, the head of the Palestinian negotiating team, is reported to have said to Israel's team leader Elyakim Rubinstein, "if the land is not occupied in the interim phase how will it come to be occupied later?"

Israel has consistently rejected the idea of having defined "national" boundaries and a constitution which binds its political and military establishments to the principles of international law. This failure to delineate boundaries has allowed Israel to impose its territorial jurisdiction over areas which surpass the limits of the U.N. partition plan of 1947. Conceding that territorial compromise is to be based only on territories occupied in 1967 has given Arab and international recognition of Israeli control over these areas occupied in 1948, as Israel proper.

According to David Singer, convenor of the "Jordan is Palestine" committee, the basic policy guidelines of the Labour Likud 1988 coalition government's programme state that "Israel will oppose the establishment of an additional Palestinian state in the Gaza District and in the area between Israel and Jordan."

The words "additional Palestinian state" he says, "were chosen very deliberately because there was clear recognition by both Labour and Likud that there was already in existence in 80 per cent of former Palestine a Palestinian state called Jordan... Mr. Rabin himself has proclaimed that Jordan comprises almost four-fifths of Palestine."

Mr. Singer suggests that the Israeli Foreign Ministry should "continuously promote and disseminate this information to a world that continues to believe that the Palestinian Arabs are stateless and lack self-determination." These territories, Israel claims, were "designated by the mandate for reconstitution as a Jewish state; they were, by international law, inseparable parts of

the State of Israel... Judea, Samaria and Gaza are, then, not conquered territories, and the rules of the Geneva Protocols relating to military conquered territories do not apply to them; nor do Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338." The joint Republican and Democrat Baltimore conference of 1942, which endorsed transfer, as well as the revelations of Alec Kirkbride, the architect of British policy in the Middle East, in his book "Crackle of Thorns," of the existence of a Western allies' plan to transfer Palestinians to Jordan once the Jewish state was established, help explain

Jordan; and secondly, in accepting such a definition the Arabs will have voluntarily given up the international rights to the occupied territories, in which Israel was considered a belligerent power occupying another state's lands. For whereas the disengagement of 1988 was only administrative, legitimising it through an international agreement would give Israel a great advantage. According to international law this constitutes a cession of territories, and might lead to a "recognition, which stops third parties," the Palestinians in this case, "from contesting the validity of a

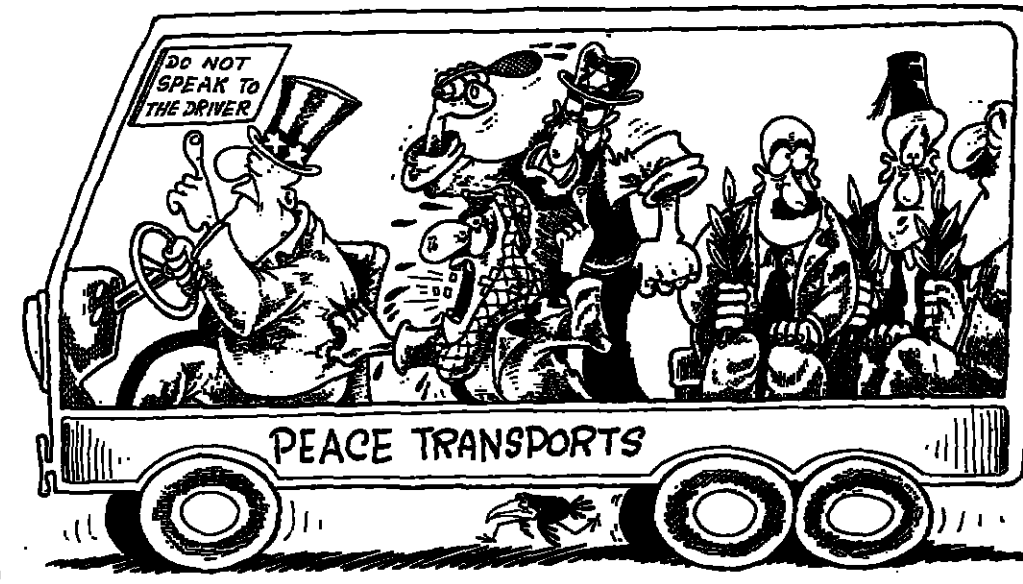
law, silence of parties concerned might be interpreted as an implied recognition of such an agreement, especially when it is endorsed by one partner of a joint-delegation. In such a case, under international law, there are two steps which could be taken; first, the Palestinian people's legitimate claim to the occupied territories would need to be recorded with various international bodies, such as the U.N., EC and the Arab League, reaffirming their territorial rights and unequivocally asserting their inalienable rights, which the definition might otherwise jeopardise. And second, the PLO could

half of the occupied territories facilitates the realisation of Israeli motives behind, assistance on postponing of these issues a stage. It also sets a precedent for the PLO, track in which Israelis are currently: force the Palestinians; just such a definition land and water of Bank and Gaza Strip.

Agreeing to a "just solution" in accordance international law," with plicity referring to the Nations resolution, "tulates the refugees' return," potentially mines the very affair that "just solution" absence of an agreement a common understanding what is and is not international law, the ambiguity which can be exploited by the strong. Ultimately, the absence of good faith and a no settlement, which constitutes basis of international lead to a failure to a just solution to the problem as defined resolutions. One such of Israel's flagrant lack faith and moral compass is its rejection, in the lateral talks, of even the right of Palestinian lies, such as those "vived the Sabra and massacres orchestrated Israel, or those expelled Kuwait, to reunification. Further, international essentially based on terms such as consent, tion and good faith, which are recognised spected by Israel will ence to the Palestinian. Israel has not implemented Fourth Geneva Convention the U.N. Human Rights laration or any other standards to govern its in the Palestinian occupied territories.

Whilst lawyers and have written endlessly constitutes international "it remains for the states concerned to whether they desire their freedom of act such... commitments. liance on the arbitrar international law to so refugee problem, given chronic failure to show faith, is, at the very inadequate. With no "return" the solution problem will be at Israel creation - the refugees a tion in Arab countries.

M. KAHIL



Israel's rejection of Arab sovereignty over the Palestinian occupied territories of 1967, whether Palestinian or Jordanian; the de facto annexation inherent in its policy of denying citizenship to the Palestinian population; its denial of the Palestinians' right of self-determination; and its handling of the infitah. Ultimately, Israel's heinous solution of the "Palestinian problem" is the transfer, compulsory or voluntary, of the Palestinian people. To achieve this goal Israel has, since 1967, systematically attacked the Palestinians' human and economic existence. Therefore the recognition of the mandatory borders does not necessarily guarantee Jordan's security.

The recognition of the mandatory boundaries has, I believe, two inherent flaws: firstly, it could be argued that in 1920 these boundaries included

recognised title." It would thus be made easier for the Israelis to claim title for the "military controlled areas": that is, disputed areas without a proper title, even though the physical existence of the Palestinian people on its own homeland, since millennia, constitutes, according to international law, its own sovereignty which cannot be denied. If the status of cessation is proved applicable, which Israel claims, and "in the absence of any express settlement in a treaty of cession, the public property (state land - estimates of which vary from 60-80 per cent of the West Bank) of the ceding state (Jordan) becomes automatically the property of the cessionary state (Israel), and the public law of the ceding state is replaced by that of the cessionary state."

According to international

consider declaring the negotiating team as part of a provisional government, to preempt a political vacuum occurring in the light of such an agreement regarding the status of the occupied territories. This might help eliminate these negative ramifications. Such a move should only be made though after consultations with the international community, the Arab League and international legal experts, to ensure there would be de facto recognition of such an entity. "implying acceptance of the claim of the recognised (Palestinian) government to exercise jurisdiction within its own territory."

In addition, the vague definition of "military control," by which the Israelis might exclude Jerusalem and the Jewish settlements, which together account for more than

Weapons programme could put Iran, U.S. on collision course

By Jim Wolf
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Iran has launched a \$2 billion-a-year rearmament drive that could put it on a collision course with the incoming Clinton administration, experts inside and outside the U.S. government say.

They say Iran is spending that much annually on a steady buildup of forces and defence industries devastated by its 1980-88 war with Iraq, including what is widely believed to be a nuclear weapons programme.

Robert Gates, head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), said last week that Iran's ruling Islamic fundamentalists might pose a threat to U.S. and allied interests in the Gulf within three to five years.

"Is it a problem today?" Mr.

Gates asked rhetorically in a published interview. "Probably not. But three, four, five years from now it could be a serious problem."

According to a New York Times report, a new CIA study has concluded that Tehran is making progress towards developing a nuclear weapon and may have one by the year 2000. The CIA declined to confirm or deny the report, but it appears certain to preoccupy President-elect Bill Clinton, who accused President George Bush during the election campaign of missing signs of Iraq's buildup before its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Iranian leaders deny any interest in developing a nuclear weapon. Tehran's U.N. envoy, Kamal Kharrazi, has said in a television interview that Iraq might be instigating such reports

to create "Iran-phobia" in the United States.

But Tehran has purchased advanced aircraft, tanks, missiles and nuclear technology from Russia, China and North Korea, among others, said Yossef Bodansky, who tracks Iran as director of the U.S. House of Representatives' task force on terrorism and unconventional warfare.

A top Iranian Navy commander, Rear Admiral Abbas Mohtaj, has confirmed that Iran had bought three submarines from Russia. The first, a Kilo-class attack craft, joined Iran's fleet in the southern Gulf earlier this month.

U.S. experts say the introduction of submarines spells a new strategic challenge in the Strait of Hormuz, through which about 20 per cent of the world's oil flows each year.

"I'm very suspicious of Iranian intentions," said Kenneth Katzman of the congressional research service, author of the forthcoming book, "The Warriors of Islam."

"They've just got their tentacles in more places now than at any time since the Islamic revolution" led by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in the 1970s and '80s, he said.

That revolution, which toppled the U.S.-backed shah, led to foreign policy disasters for then-President Jimmy Carter, over the Tehran hostage crisis, and Ronald Reagan, whose administration was tarnished by secret arms sales to Iran.

Tehran no longer openly threatens to subvert the monarchies of the Gulf, but many leading mullahs still regard the United States as the "great satan."

LETTERS

Where would the difference go?

To the Editor:

I enquired recently about the local price of a new European car with a two-litre engine. A price of JD 60,000 given.

Coincidentally, reading a business magazine later, there was an article on the manufacturer which said the same car of the same engine had recently been launched in America at a price of \$24,000 (equivalent to JD 16,000).

Can anyone explain to this temporary resident of Jordan the astonishing difference in price?

W. Craig,
P.O. Box 9264
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and address as well. Names can be withheld only on request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of manuscripts.

Features

Iraqi artist challenges perception of space and time

By Curt Ryan and Stephanie Genkin

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A visit to the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts provides aesthetic and visual challenges; with the addition of Iraqi artist Shaker Hassan Al Said's latest exhibition, the gallery offers an added intellectual challenge to the Arab art world. Mr. Al Said is renowned not only as a painting artist, but also as an innovative philosopher.

Wrestling with the flat surface on which he paints, Mr. Al Said attempts to break from the confines of the two-dimensional world. His work reflects an ongoing interest in the relationship between time, space and human consciousness. In order to capture the essence of existence, Mr. Al Said employs a combination of techniques which emphasize depth and movement.

Abstract concepts are expressed through synthesizing squares and arrows with Arabic letters and numbers which create new curves, lines and shapes to explore the possibilities of space.

Mr. Al Said's collection portrays his conception of spatial movement through the use of mixed media collages on paper, and paintings on wood or even easel. But perhaps the most unique expression of his art is represented through a series of works entitled "Double face" and "Unfaced mirrors," in which the artwork appears on both sides of the paper encased in upright glass. His technique renders not only a sense of continuity, but also allows the visitors to view both sides of the same temporal space.

In all Mr. Al Said's works, texture plays a prominent role in conveying depth, through layers of paper and newspaper collage, as well as thick, heavy strokes of paint. The use of depth is further achieved both by adding, adding, and by subtracting "air" — producing holes and rucks across the surface. Together, these techniques and media allow the visitor to take a journey through space and time.

Mr. Al Said's exhibition, open until Dec. 21, is surely a challenge to the open-minded, or the less adventurous. However, the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts offers a more eclectic sampling of modern Arab and Islamic art not missed.

Kuwaiti government sidesteps confrontations with parliament

KUWAIT (AP) — The government appears to have headed off confrontations with parliament on two of the emirate's most explosive political issues: "The 1990 Iraqi invasion and alleged mishandling of Kuwait's multi-billion dollar overseas investments."

Parliament voted to appoint a committee to investigate the government's handling of the invasion and referred the investments scandal to the state's accounting office.

But the committee's powers will be limited primarily to referring any case of negligence over the invasion to the judiciary for further action rather than impeaching ministers or military commanders.

That appeared to be a compromise between the government and parliament over the controversial issue which has dominated politics since Kuwait was liberated by U.S.-led coalition forces in February 1991 after a seven-month Iraqi occupation.

The opposition had demanded a committee that would be able to hold government officials accountable for any mistakes made before, during and after the Aug. 2, 1990 invasion.

favoured a fact-finding committee, with no powers, drawn from the opposition-dominated parliament and outside.

"This is a satisfactory formula for all parties concerned...we, as deputies of the people, are just looking for the truth and it's not in our interest to clash with anybody," pro-government legislator Talal Al Saeed said after Tuesday's vote.

Dhawi Al Othman, minister of state for cabinet affairs and a deputy prime minister, said the committee's investigation should be aimed at learning from the invasion experience to avoid such calamities in the future.

"The Iraqi regime is responsible for the criminal act of the morning of Aug. 2," he declared.

Investigating the government's failure to anticipate the Iraqi invasion and why the military response was so ineffective, even though Kuwait's forces were heavily outnumbered by the Iraqi army, and the investments scandal were the hottest issues in the Oct. 5 elections for the 50-member parliament.

In Tuesday's vote, 35 of the 30 lawmakers present approved setting up the nine-member investigative committee. The other three abstained.

They included Ahmad Al Khateeb, a prominent critic of the government and leader of the Democratic Forum opposition group.

Despite its election triumph, the opposition has been far less muscular than expected and heightened the belief that the ruling Al Sabah family has been able so far to harness the opposition within the Kuwait's traditional political structure dominated by the Al Sabahs.

The opposition's main drawback is its fragmentation. There is no cohesive power bloc and the establishment appears to have been able to exploit the differences between the opposition groups.

The opposition and their allies won 35 seats in the October poll, the first since the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, dissolved parliament in 1986 for criticizing the government.

The scandal over the state-run Kuwait Investment Office's (KIO) funds in Spain is another issue on which government have been expected to clash with parliament.

The KIO's admission it has lost \$5 billion on industrial investments in Spain in recent years, while making hefty profits for

institutional and Kuwaiti investors that were transferred to hitherto unrevealed external accounts, has caused an uproar.

Parliament Tuesday decided that the accounting office, the highest accounting authority in Kuwait, should investigate and

that the assembly's financial committee should look into foreign investments in general.

Mr. Khateeb declared:

"There's a feeling of uneasiness and concern about investigations carried out by the government."

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DHL WORLDWIDE EXPRESS

Gunmen

(Continued from page 1)

its 86 delegates in Somalia and might evacuate some if the situation worsens.

But an ICRC spokesman said all-Swiss humanitarian agency would continue to try to feed 1.2 million people despite continued fighting and anarchy in the country.

"The situation in Somalia is getting worse every day," an ICRC statement said.

"An improvement in security conditions is essential. The very survival of the Somali population is at stake."

A spokesman told Reuters: "The ICRC has put in place a reinforced security arrangement guarantee the security of our

delegates."

"We have tried to reinforce the area of telecommunications which seems essential," he said. Radio contacts had been improved between the ICRC delegates, scattered in 12 places in Somalia, and the Geneva headquarters.

He added: "If the situation should deteriorate, some of the delegates, such as the veterinarians for example, who are not urgently needed, might be evacuated to Nairobi." See related stories on page 2.

Somalis meeting in the Ethiopian capital Saturday called on the U.S.-led troops preparing to enter Somalia to disarm and demobilize armed gunmen looting relief assistance as a priority.

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Economy

Kuwaitis want punishments over Spanish investments

WAH (R) — Kuwaiti commentators called Saturday for the punishment of those responsible for the collapse of Kuwait's investments in Spain.

They blamed mismanagement, corruption and official secrecy for the losses of more than \$4 billion in public money.

"The theft of the century" said opposition newspaper Al Wasl in a banner headline on its front page.

Groupo Torres S.A. is fighting for receivership to stop further losses.

Groupo Torres is the Spanish unit of the London-based Kuwait Investment Office, the branch of the government which manages a worldwide investment portfolio meant to sustain Kuwaitis when the country's oil runs out.

Abdul Jalil Al Gharabali, formerly a consultant to the Central Bank of Kuwait, described it as a tragedy.

"The issue is not an economic one. It's a moral one. It began

when those who tampered with public money sold their consciences," he told Reuters.

"The time has come to punish those who abused public money and to freeze their money until the judicial authorities have investigated this tragedy," he added.

Jassem Al Saadoun, an independent consultant and economic adviser to parliament, said Groupo Torres's problems were the result of choosing the wrong companies and of a premeditated intention on the part of decision-makers that this money would not be sacrosanct.

"The secrecy which has surrounded these investments in the past was a big mistake," he added. "Secrecy in managing public funds is most unorthodox. The people must know."

In a debate on the investments in the Kuwaiti parliament last Tuesday, members demanded the government tell the truth about the Spanish and other foreign investments.

Finance Minister Nasser Abdullah Al Rodhan gave a bland explanation of the government's attempt to sort the Spanish mess out but declined to give any figures.

Kuwaitis have been almost wholly dependent on the foreign press for details of the Grupo Torres debacle.

Al Qabas editor Mohammad Jassem Al Saqr, in an editorial on the subject, said: "The thieves and the incompetent must be brought to book. There can be no

hesitation or delay. The astonishing thing is that after all these losses, and in spite of the Spanish scandal (and I am sure other scandals will come to light), our investment is still a secret."

The Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) Friday said its Grupo Torres S.A. unit filed for receivership after losses exceeding \$4 billion, but the Spanish government said it believed the KIO would not pull out of Spain.

Mahmoud Al Nouri, deputy chairman of the KIO's 100 per cent owned Torres Industrial Holding Company, told a news conference that reports completed by auditors and lawyers left no option.

"The results of investigations have shown that the situation is much more critical than first thought and have forced us to change our plans in order to avoid more deterioration," he said.

The Spanish government, which tried to dissuade KIO from such a move, put a brave face on the outcome and said it trusted the Kuwaitis would continue investing in Spain.

Mr. Al Nouri had said earlier that Friday decision did not mean KIO was pulling out of Spain and that it will continue investing if good opportunities arise. He is a member of the new management brought in after a KIO shakeup in May, which led to the resignation of his predecessor, Javier de la Rosa.

The new management asked auditors KPMG Peat Marwick

Algeria sets investment, tax strategy for future

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria, battling crippling debt and poverty, is laying the groundwork for an economic take-off from 1995 with plans to tax the rich, attract foreign investors and encourage small and medium businesses.

In a broad outline of medium-term strategy, the government said that it aimed to "bring the country out of the profound and many-sided crisis into which it plunged over several years."

It also pledged to maintain help to the 7.5 million poorest of its 26 million people.

The government gave no details on the amount of new taxes but Prime Minister Belaid Abdul Selam has already warned that Algerians face three to five years of austerity before the economy will be turned around.

"The principles of rigour in economic management, mobilising the country's internal financial and material resources, national solidarity and social justice must guide the state's actions and that of its economic operators and all citizens," the government said in a statement.

Algeria is crippled by foreign debt of about \$25 billion and badly needs fresh investment.

Officials also believe poverty and unemployment, officially 1.2 million and rising by 200,000 a year, play a big part in driving

young people into the Muslim fundamentalist movement.

Under the government plan, national industry will be protected and promoted, especially through fiscal and customs steps, to favour agriculture, craft industries, small and medium industry and tourism.

The government has already lifted producer prices and slashed interest rates on loans to farmers. Last month it banned a wide range of so-called "luxury" imports.

The statement spoke of pursuing the "financial cleansing" of enterprises but made no direct mention of privatisation, one of the early targets in reforms started after riots in 1988 towards a multi-party system and free market liberal economy.

"Foreign investment in various forms will be encouraged, complemented by an investment code now being drawn up," it said.

Last December Algeria opened existing oil and gas fields to foreign firms for the first time and changed another law to help avoid double-taxation.

"The oil and gas side is now attracting a lot of interest and is the main bright hope at the moment for this country," one Western diplomat said recently.

Some 23 foreign firms have signed contracts with the state energy company Sonatrach and

Energy Minister Hacene Mefti said last month Algeria was negotiating investment of nearly \$4 billion with foreigners. Eight contracts were at an advanced stage.

The government said it would introduce a national "solidarity" levy for three years. It said a tax on the rich would be "based on the net value of external signs of wealth, excluding elements which form the tools of production or are needed for work."

"It will not lead to any inquiry inside people's homes," it pointed out.

The government pledged to continue subsidising some basic essentials and help the poorest among its 26 million people.

Early this year the government ended subsidies on some 20 basic essentials, putting in their place a welfare net but maintaining a limited range of subsidies.

Ending the subsidies was one condition of a standby credit accord with the International Monetary Fund in June 1991.

Subsidies in 1991 cost the state \$2.6 billion (dinars \$2.4 billion) while direct welfare payments are budgeted this year to cost 24.2 billion dinars (\$1.1 billion).

The draft of a national plan for 1993 is to be examined during this month before going to the collective presidency.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	NEW YORK CLOSE
	3/12/92	4/12/92
Sterling Pound	1.5640	1.5605
Deutsche Mark	1.5830	1.5930
Swiss Franc	1.4135	1.4285
French Franc	5.3875	5.4070
Japanese Yen	124.67	124.95
European Currency Unit	1.2379**	1.2335

USD Per STD
European Opening at 8:00 A.M. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 5/12/92

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.81	3.62	3.62	4.00
Sterling Pound	7.06	7.00	6.75	6.612
Deutsche Mark	9.03	8.75	8.37	7.51
Swiss Franc	6.15	6.06	5.87	5.68
French Franc	10.25	10.25	9.68	9.06
Japanese Yen	3.87	3.66	3.62	3.62
European Currency Unit	11.37	10.81	10.13	9.12

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 12/92

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	355.45	6.50	Silver	5.77	0.82

21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 5/12/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.688	0.690
Sterling Pound	1.0718	1.0772
Deutsche Mark	0.4314	0.4336
Swiss Franc	0.4871	0.4895
French Franc	0.1271	0.1277
Japanese Yen	0.5503	0.5531
Dutch Guilder	0.3839	0.3858
Swedish Krona	0.1006	0.1011
Italian Lira	0.0493	0.0495
Belgian Franc	0.2097	0.2107

Other Currencies Date: 5/12/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7940	1.8150
Lebanese Lira	0.0350	0.0385
Saudi Riyal	0.1830	0.1840
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2850	2.3000
Qatari Riyal	0.1864	0.1874
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7550	1.7690
UAE Dirham	0.1864	0.1874
Greek Drachma	0.3300	0.3375
Cypriot Pound	1.4580	1.4780

AB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	25/11/92	Close	2/12/92	Close
All-Share	165.57		166.35	
Banking Sector	119.32		120.24	
Insurance Sector	181.32		182.96	
Industry Sector	227.19		228.88	
Services Sector	231.21		237.45	

December 31, 1992 = 100

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

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COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING PRICE	OFFERING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN BANK	204.55	2.450	2.470
THE HOUSING BANK	5.41	3.300	3.370
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	142.73	3.190	3.190
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	43.133	3.820	3.870
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	3.129	3.300	3.310
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	17.359	4.120	4.140
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	2.025	4.450	4.500
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	594.343	1.870	1.880
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	129.759	1.610	1.620
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	74.966	4.320	4.250
BEIT ELBAI SAVINGS/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING BANK OF JORDAN	99.481	5.240	5.610
ARAB BANK	67.025	119.500	119.500
GENERAL ARABIA INSURANCE	384.000	3.200	3.200
JORDAN PRINCE INSURANCE	50.577	3.370	3.370
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	5.820	2.750	2.700
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE	344	2.250	2.290
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	80.068	2.910	2.950
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	29.124	1.800	1.840
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	136.367	6.200	6.150
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	56.169	1.200	1.190
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONDORES HOTELS	136.046	2.630	2.620
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	8.760	0.460	0.480
HOUSING BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	12.235	1.200	1.230
PETRA ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENTS LEASING	8.580	1.180	1.180
JORDAN CABLE REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	13.425	0.900	0.930
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	3.240	1.700	1.620
JORDAN KINATY CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	151.381	1.620	1.680
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	2.025	1.520	1.500
JORDAN DAIRY	15.407	2.620	2.610
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	232.134	10.650	10.400
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	126.989	1.440	1.460
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	3.573	0.310	0.250
ARAB CHEMICAL DEFENDERS INDUSTRIES	3.450	23.300	23.000
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	1.108	5.800	5.800
DAR AL BANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	111.601	9.700	9.700
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	22.492	4.000	3.910
THE JORDAN WOODSTOCK HILLS	16.864	11.200	11.100
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	55.246	0.710	0.810
JORDAN PAPER & CARD BOARD FACTORIES	2.958	4.500	4.350
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	13.036	4.350	4.350
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	8.520	2.350	2.350
JORDAN TANNING	3.522	6.250	6.500
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	294.274	3.450	3.470
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	55.827	0.820	0.840
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	5.293	5.920	5.870
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	17.407	13.500	13.400
ALADOL INDUSTRIES	15.253	4.400	4.320
WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	1.260	2.890	2.520
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JINDO	14.666	1.250	1.250
SPINNING & WEAVING	98.175	3.180	3.140
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	57.462	6.850	6.820
JORDAN CABLES & WIRE MANUFACTURING	90.723	4.750	4.740
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	518.555	1.670	1.740
JORDAN ROPEWORK INDUSTRIES	17.581	2.370	2.350
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	102.300	0.840	0.850
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	274.217	5.710	5.700
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	117.575	3.070	3.060
JORDAN TONCOU & CIGARETTES	2.850	28.500	28.500
JORDAN PETROLEUM SERVICES	18.432	8.600	8.600

GRAND TOTAL 4,935,007

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 40400
TRADING VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET : JD 70336

Entry fee stirs dispute at environment fund talks

ABIDJAN (R) — Developing nations campaigned Friday to end what they see as an excessive price for membership of the world's top agency for funding projects aimed at protecting the global environment.

Delegates at the Global Environment Facility (GEF) meeting in Abidjan said a \$4 million requirement for entry was keeping out several countries from the fund.

"It is ridiculous. The World Bank had to lend money to some poor countries to join," one delegate told Reuters.

The membership issue has once more turned a major international environment meeting into a clash between poor countries of

the South and industrialised states of the North.

North-South divisions came to a head at the Earth Summit in Rio last June which designated the GEF as the world's main agency for funding ecological protection projects.

More than 40 governments are attending the three-day Abidjan meeting of the GEF, which has been under the ambit of the World Bank since its creation two years ago.

"It's obvious that the industrialised countries don't want membership to be universal because they can have better control in a restricted forum," one African delegate said.

Decisions at the GEF are now

based on consensus, a method Third World delegates say is undemocratic.

"We are fighting for what is democratic. We don't want one-dollar-one-vote but one-country-one-vote," an Asian participant said.

GEF Chairman Mohammad El Ashry rejected charges by Third World delegates and non-governmental organisations that the World Bank's control of environment projects was furthering the interests of industrial nations.

"That is just a perception," Mr. Ashry, a World Bank executive, told Reuters. "Decisions about projects are taken by participating countries," he added.

Church slams Ramos for failing to house poor Filipinos

MANILA (R) — The Roman Catholic archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin, slammed President Fidel Ramos' government Saturday for demolishing squatter shanties and failing to house thousands of poor Filipinos.

Archbishop Sin said during a mass in Manila that the government had appropriated only one-fourth of one per cent of the \$29.3 billion pesos (\$12.9 billion) in the national budget for housing.

"Houses of human beings continue to be torn apart and their inhabitants left homeless on the streets," Archbishop Sin said.

"They have been carried out by untrained goons... backed up often by unidentified members of the Philippine National Police."

"These demolitions weigh heavily on our Christian conscience. They impugn our very humanity," he declared.

Archbishop Sin said it was not enough that President Ramos, the first Protestant president of the predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines, planned to put up housing in an area where the smoken mountain garbage dump north of Manila used to be located.

The cardinal called for the creation of a housing department

to deal with the problem and urged the government to crack down on land speculation that was driving up the price of prime real estate in the capital.

"Can we not find more political will to face our housing problem be an ugly type of class warfare, where shelter rights of the have-nots are pitted perennially against the property rights of the haves?" Archbishop Sin asked.

"While we have built spectacular temples to worship capitalist consumerism, flyovers to raise traffic problems to the heavens, and palaces to house the hollow rites of modern hedonism, we have generally been unable to achieve better conditions of housing for our poor," he added.

There is a severe shortage of housing in the sprawling city of eight million. Tens of thousands of people squat on land where they do not have access to potable water or power supplies.

Attempts to expel them often result in clashes between police and people defending their homes.

Al Ahram says IMF has not helped Egypt enough

CAIRO (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has not helped Egypt enough with economic reforms and wants far too drastic a cut in public spending, a semi-official Egyptian newspaper said Friday.

The editorial commentary in Al Ahram newspaper, which often reflects government thinking, was Egypt's first public criticism of the IMF since starting an economic reform programme last year. It marked rising tension over progress of the reforms.

The two sides agreed in Washington last week to extend the deadline for a first stage of the reforms by three months to avoid an IMF review of the reforms that Western economists said was almost certain to be unfavourable.

Editor Ibrahim Nafie wrote an October earthquake had cost Egypt at least four billion Egyptian pounds (\$1.3 billion), making it impossible to match IMF targets for cutting the budget deficit to three per cent in the second stage of reforms.

Under the headline "this, or utter ruin" he said Egypt must be helped to boost productivity to avoid being swamped by goods from advanced nations trying to keep developing countries economically dependent on them.

"The first part of the reform programme had two parts, the first part was financial and monetary measures which we carried out with great success. The second part was development and here the IMF and the World Bank did not help us enough," he said. "The IMF and World Bank must help us with large amounts of aid to have impact."

Structural reform of the huge public sector — which involves privatisation and politically sensitive lay-offs — is the key bone of contention.

Egypt has said it is committed to the reforms but must go at its own pace to avoid social upheavals. The IMF and Western donors have fretted at delays in the reforms.

The World Bank and Western donors have committed about \$600 million to a social fund which was set up to handle the social damage of economic reforms. But the fund has been dogged by administrative problems and little money has been paid out.

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